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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 001411

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/08/2015

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SUBJECT: JCIC-XXVII: (U) BILATERAL MEETING ON UKRAINIAN  
SS-24 ELIMINATIONS, JUNE 7, 2005

Classified By: Dr. George W. Look, U.S. Representative  
to the Joint Compliance and Inspection Commission (JCIC).  
Reason: 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (U) This is JCIC-XXVII-022.
2. (U) Meeting Date: June 7, 2005  
Time: 11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.  
Place: U.S. Mission, Geneva

#### SUMMARY

3. (S) A Ukraine-initiated bilateral meeting was held at the U.S. Mission on June 7, 2005, to discuss Ukrainian proposals regarding eliminations of SS-24s. Ukraine related that it was seeking funding from countries other than the United States under the Global Partnership Program to support the use of the water washout method to remove solid fuel from SS-24 ICBMs, and inquired whether the United States would object to such an arrangement. The U.S. Delegation stated it could see no START Treaty objection. Ukraine also asked whether the United States might reconsider its decision to not support this work if the financial burden on the United States was lessened. Finally, on its proposal to re-use SS-24 solid-rocket motor cases, Ukraine offered that it could increase the number of holes it would make in the rocket motor case to "convince the pessimists" that the case could not be re-used for its original purpose. Ukraine stated that it would like to discuss these issues further at the second half of JCIC-XXVII.

#### UKRAINE MOVING AHEAD ON WATER WASHOUT

4. (S) At a bilateral meeting at the U.S. Mission on June 7, 2005, Shcherba stated that Ukraine had already begun to dispose of solid-rocket fuel from SS-24 ICBMs, and that it still wanted to use the water washout method, despite the U.S. decision not to fund such activity. Ukraine was seeking funding from other countries using its status as a recipient of Global Partnership assistance, but had run into difficulties. Countries that might provide funding to Ukraine, aware of the bilateral U.S.-Ukraine relationship under the Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) Program, had wondered whether the United States would object to their cooperation with Ukraine. Shcherba inquired whether the United States would object, and whether the United States would reconsider funding this effort should the financial burden on the United States be lessened.
5. (S) Shcherba also noted that Ukrainian experts would attend a U.S.-proposed demonstration of open detonation methods, but he had serious doubts whether this method was acceptable to Ukraine. The opinion of Ukrainian experts was that there was no alternative to the water washout method.

#### U.S. RESPONSE

6. (S) Look stated that the U.S. JCIC Delegation was not the right group of experts to address this issue, as it did not control the CTR Program that had direct authority over the assistance for the elimination of Ukrainian SS-24 ICBMs. He stated he would report this information back to the appropriate officials in Washington. He noted that the United States would have no START Treaty-related problem with other countries assisting Ukraine in this situation; the U.S. interest was in the elimination of systems, not who paid for them. He reiterated the U.S. position that open detonation methods could be ecologically and financially sound.
7. (S) Noting that Shevtsov had said on a previous occasion that Ukraine was proceeding with a pilot plan using water washout methods, Look asked whether that meant Ukraine was close to having washed out SS-24 rocket motor cases that would then need to be eliminated. Shevtsov replied that this

was correct. On Ukraine's proposal to drill holes in the solid-rocket motor cases to allow their re-use as containers for radiological or toxic waste, Shevtsov volunteered that Ukraine could increase the number of holes made in the rocket motor cases, and Ukraine was prepared to submit details to "convince the pessimists" that the rocket motor case could not be re-used for its original purpose.

#### WRAPPING UP

18. (S) Ukraine stated that it would like to discuss these issues further at the second half of JCIC-XXVII. Also, Ukraine would look carefully at the U.S.-drafted Trident II Coordinated Plenary Statement and respond through diplomatic channels. Look encouraged the Ukrainians to continue the dialogue with appropriate CTR officials on the elimination of its SS-24s. He also thanked Ukraine for participating in the Trident II RVOSI demonstration, and urged Ukraine to use diplomatic channels during the intersession period to maximize the productivity of the JCIC.

19. (S) The Ukrainian Delegation, noting that Look had informally suggested that his personal view was that the second part of the session could occur in late October or early November, expressed reservations about holding it any later than that due to holidays. Look stated his goal was to keep the length of the session to as short as possible and certainly less than two weeks.

110. (U) Documents exchanged: None.

111. (U) Participants:

#### U.S.

Dr. Look  
Mr. Buttrick  
Mr. Dunn  
Mr. Foley  
Mr. Johnston  
Mr. Kuehne  
Ms. Kottmyer  
Mr. Mullins  
Mr. Singer  
Mr. Smith  
Mr. Tiersky  
Mr. French (Int)  
Dr. Hopkins (Int)

#### Ukraine

Mr. Shcherba  
Dr. Shevtsov  
Mr. Dotsenko  
MGen Fedotov  
Col Taran

112. (U) Look sends.  
Moley